

Message Text

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USMISSION OECD FOR BASEK

USMISSION GENEVA FOR ROBERT ALLEN

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SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR TURNER OF USOECD AND US
EXECUTIVES ON OECD INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

REF: STATE 143088; BERN 2983

1. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM C. TURNER OF USOECD MET AT US MISSION
GENEVA JULY 16 WITH GROUP OF 30 KEY EXECUTIVES FROM US
FIRMS OPERATING IN SWITZERLAND. MEETING ORGANIZED BY EMBASSY
BERN AND SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HOST WAS BERN
CHARGE HARRY I. ODELL. AMBASSADOR DALE OF MISSION GENEVA
AND EDWARD M. STRAUSS, JR., PRESIDENT OF SWISS-AMERICAN
CHAMBER (AND OF ALCOA SA) ATTENDED.

2. MEETING WENT EXTREMELY WELL. KEEN INTEREST OF EXECUTIVES
ON AMBASSADOR TURNER'S TOPIC WAS REFLECTED IN QUESTIONS

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ASKED DURING DISCUSSION PERIOD FOLLOWING HIS PRESENTATION.

FOLLOWING WERE PRINCIPAL POINTS RAISED DURING Q AND A SESSION:

(A) HOW CAN FIRMS ARTICULATE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE GUIDELINES; (B) WAS THERE MUCH DEBATE AT OECD ON WHAT CONSTITUTES A MNE?; (C) ARE THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN THE OECD EXPECTED TO PASS LAWS SPECIFICALLY IMPLEMENTING THE GUIDELINES?; (D) WHAT USE IS LIKELY TO BE MADE OF ADDITIONAL DATA MADE PUBLIC BY FIRMS COMPLYING WITH DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS OF GUIDELINES, AND WILL THEY BE MADE PUBLIC; (E) IS THERE ANY HOPE OF CURBING THE USE OF BRIBERY IN COUNTRIES WHERE IT IS A LONG-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE AND PART OF THE STANDARD WAY OF DOING BUSINESS?; (F) IS ADOPTION OF THE OECD GUIDELINES EXPECTED TO INFLUENCE OTHER GROUPS NOW WORKING ON SIMILAR GUIDELINES TO SLOW DOWN OR SUSPEND THEIR DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR OWN VERSIONS; (G) ARE OTHER OECD MEMBER GOVTS EXPECTED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO BRIEF EXECUTIVES OF THEIR MNEs OPERATING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON THE GUIDELINES; (H) WHAT WAS THE REACTION OF THE JAPANESE GOVT IN THE OECD TO THE GUIDELINES; (I) WHAT WILL BE REACTION AMONG LDCs TO THE GUIDELINES; (J) WILL THE OECD WORK WITH THE UN IN FORMULATION OF WORLD-WIDE GUIDELINES?; (K) DO THE DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS GO BEYOND REQUIREMENTS NOW EXISTING IN MANY OECD COUNTRIES?; (L) DOES THE USG SEEK PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM US FIRMS IN SUPPORT OF THE GUIDELINES?; (M) ARE THE CODE OR POLICIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT INTEGRATED IN THE OECD GUIDELINES?; (N) WHAT INITIATIVES BY INTERNATIONAL UNIONS IN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ARE FORESEEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE OECD GUIDELINES?; AND (O) ARE THERE EXPECTED TO BE CONTINUING EFFORTS FROM LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO PERSUADE GOVTS TO STRENGTHEN THE GUIDELINES AND MAKE THEM MORE MANDATORY?

3. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, AMB. TURNER DISTRIBUTED TO EXECUTIVES COPIES OF TEXT OF HIS GENEVA PRESENTATION AND OF AN OECD RELEASE CONTAINING TEXT OF THE GUIDELINES AND THE RELATED OECD DECLARATION, AND URGED THOSE PRESENT TO CALL ON EMBASSY BERN OR HIS OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION THEY MIGHT REQUIRE CONCERNING THE GUIDELINES.
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